

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 and 23-24 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, Claims 1, 12, 14, 21 and 23 are amended, Claim 22 is canceled and Claim 24 is added.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the courtesy extended by the Examiners to Applicants' representative during the personal interview on 31 January 2003. The substance of the interview is incorporated into the remarks below.

New Claim 24 is fully supported by the application as originally filed, and does not add new matter to the application. See, for example, the specification at numbered paragraph 0027.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 1-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,949,022 to Lipman (Lipman) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,365,133 to Raad (Raad). This rejection is respectfully traversed.


As acknowledged by the Examiners during the 31 January personal interview, the asserted combination of Lipman and Raad fails to disclose or suggest *a sealed casing surrounding the rotor and the stator so that cooling air that flows through the rotor travels in a closed path entirely within the sealed casing*, as recited in independent Claims 1 and 12, and similar features recited in independent Claims 14 and 21. Withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-21 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Lipman and Raad is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration on the merits and prompt allowance are respectfully requested. In the event any questions arise regarding this communication or the application in general,

the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By: 
M. David Ream
Registration No. 35,333

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620

Date: 14 February 2003